

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5 and 21-24 and amend Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14 and 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) A data collection assembly module, comprising:

a) a support having a predetermined form factor;

b) a first auto ID reader supported by the support, said first auto ID reader operative for sensing encoded data on a first type of record carrier positioned near the first auto ID reader and for reading the encoded data;

c) a second auto ID reader supported by the support, said second auto ID reader operative for sensing encoded data on a second type of record carrier configured to contact a portion of said second auto ID reader, said second auto ID reader further operative for reading the encoded data; and

d) a radio frequency (RF) transceiver supported by the support, and operative for transmitting the data processed by said auto ID readers derived from the record carriers;

wherein at least one of said first and second auto ID reader is an interchangeable module that is interchangeable with modules including at least one of: a bar code symbol reader, a smart card reader, a digital sensor, and a fingerprint detector.

2. (Amended) The data collection assembly module of claim 1, wherein the form factor occupies a space approximately 1-½ inch x 1 inch x ¾ inch.

3. (Amended) The data collection assembly module of claim 2, wherein the support includes a printed circuit board on which electrical circuit components for the RF transceiver are mounted.

4. (Amended) The data collection assembly module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a selection circuit for coupling the transceiver.

5. (Canceled) The data collection module of claim 1, wherein at least one auto ID reader is an interchangeable element that includes one of a bar code symbol reader, a smart card reader, a digital sensor, and a fingerprint detector.

6. (Amended) The data collection assembly module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver and at least one auto ID reader are supported within the predetermined form factor.

7. (Amended) The data collection assembly module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver and the auto ID readers generate digital signals corresponding to RF demodulated data and the auto ID encoded data, respectively, and wherein the readers share a single IC for receiving and processing the digital signals.

8. (Amended) A portable data collection terminal, comprising:

- a) a hand-held housing;
- b) a support supported by the housing and having a predetermined form factor;
- c) a radio frequency (RF) transceiver supported by the support, and operative for communicating with a RF base station associated with a computer network for transferring data between the terminal and the network; and
- d) a first and a second auto ID reader supported by the support, and operative for sensing encoded data in a first and a second data carrier of different types, respectively, and for reading the encoded data, wherein at least one of said first and second auto ID reader is an interchangeable module that is interchangeable with modules including at least one of a bar code symbol reader, a smart card reader, a digital sensor, and a fingerprint detector.

9. (Original) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the form factor occupies a space for an SE 1200 scan engine.

10. (Original) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the support includes a printed circuit board on which electrical circuit components for the RF transceiver and auto ID readers are mounted.

11. (Previously Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a circuit for modulating and demodulating an RF signal.

12. (Previously Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein at least one auto ID reader includes a photodetector.

13. (Previously Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver and at least one of the first and second auto ID readers are supported within the predetermined form factor.

14. (Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver and the auto ID readers generate digital signals corresponding to an RF signal and the auto ID encoded data, respectively, and wherein the readers share a common processing integrated circuit for receiving and processing the digital signals, and for outputting the processed signals through at least one common interface.

15. (Amended) A data collection method, comprising the steps of:
a) supporting a radio frequency (RF) transceiver on a support having a predetermined form factor;

b) supporting a first and a second auto ID reader on said support, wherein at least one of said first and second auto ID reader is an interchangeable module that is interchangeable with modules including at least one of a bar code symbol reader, a smart card reader, a digital sensor, and a fingerprint detector;

c) sensing encoded data on a record carrier positioned near or in contact with one of the first and second readers and reading the encoded data; and

d) transmitting the data processed by one of the first and second auto ID readers by the transceiver.

16. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the first auto ID reader is a bar code reader and the second auto ID reader is a smart card reader.

17. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising processing the data from the RF transceiver and the data from the auto ID readers in a common signal processing circuit.

18. (Original) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein said common signal processing circuit is implemented in a single integrated circuit.

19. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the data from the auto ID readers is transmitted from the signal processing circuit directly to the RF transceiver for wireless transmission to an external communications network.

20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the RF transceiver provides wireless communications to an external computer network using the Bluetooth protocol.

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21. (Canceled) A data collection assembly comprising:
a reader operative for sensing encoded data on a record carrier and for reading the encoded data; and
an RF transceiver operative for transmitting the data processed by said reader derived from the record carrier, wherein the reader and the RF transceiver are dimensioned and configured for being supported within a predetermined form factor.

22. (Canceled) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein the form factor occupies a space of approximately 1-½ inch x 1 inch x ¾ inch.

23. (Canceled) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein said RF transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a selection circuit for coupling the RF transceiver.

24. (Canceled) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein said reader includes a plurality of contact sensors for sensing said encoded data by contacting said record carrier.